

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00430 101024Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
/083 W

-----068897 101544Z /53

R 100431Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9181
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 430

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK ALSO PASS UDORN ELECTRICALLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM SREF PORG LA
SUBJ: HMONG MOVE THROUGH VIENTIANE UNDER MILITARY GUARD

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 0930 HOURS LOCAL TIME APRIL 6, AN
EMBASSY OFFICER SAW A LARGE NUMBER OF HMONG BEING TRANS-
PORTED THROUGH VIENTIANE IN FOUR LARGE OPEN BED TRUCKS.
THE HMONG WERE UNDER THE GUARD OF ARMED LPLA SOLDIERS

WHO RODE WITH THE HMONG, APPROXIMATELY FOUR TO FIVE
GUARDS PER TRUCK.

2. SEPARATE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE HMONG, ESTIMATED
AS NUMBERING SEVERAL HUNDRED, HAD BEEN HELD UNDER GUARD
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AT VIENTIANE'S THAT LUANG GROUNDS OVER THE NIGHT OF
APRIL 5. THEY REPORTEDLY HAD
BEEN TRANSPORTED FROM THE
PAKSANE AREA WHERE THEY HAD BEEN CAPTURED WHILE TRYING
TO ESCAPE THAILAND.

3. VILLAGERS WHO WERE ABLE TO TALK TO SOME OF THE

HMONG REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE HMONG CLAIMED TO HAVE COME FROM THE PHU BIA REGION NORTHEAST OF VIENTIANE, SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN RECENT MONTHS BETWEEN HMONG HOLDOUTS AND COMBINED LAO AND VIETNAMESE TROOPS. THE HMONG REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT THEY WERE NOT FOLLOWERS OF FAYDANG (FAYDANG LOBLIAYAO, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION) BUT OF VANG PAO. ONE LAO WHO SAW THEM SAID THAT THE GROUP COMPRISED MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN AND THAT ALL WERE THIN AND APPEARED TIRED.

4. A UNHCR OFFICIAL TOLD US APRIL 7 THAT THE FOUR TRUCKS USED TO TRANSPORT THE HMONG OUT OF VIENTIANE WERE UNHCR VEHICLES.

5. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE HMONG WERE TAKEN OR WHAT WAS THEIR FATE. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNHCR WAS NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION, THOUGH THE ORGANIZATION'S VEHICLES WERE APPARENTLY USED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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